

Letter from Tilton C. Reynolds to Juliana Reynolds, October 6, 1861

Camp Franklin, Oct 6th 1861

Dear Mother,

I Received your letter last evening and was verry glad to get a letter from home for It was the first I had got for Some time. We have moved our quarters and are now In the Camp which you see written above. I am In good Health and good spirits although Some of our fellows are Sick. One of Capt Rose?s men from Clearfield County Died Yesterday after a short Sickness. He died about 9 O clock in the morning and was Burried In the affternoon. His name was Hogan he was a middle aged man. I do not know exactly what ailed him. Some say he was poisoned in Washington and others that He died of Billious fever. He was a man that Drunk pretty hard they he looked Awful after he died. I did not go to see him though he died only a few feet from where I slept. I could hear him groaning all night. Hugh Conn is Sick but Is getting Better now as fast as possible. Now because that man died and more Sick I dont want you to think that I will get Sick too for I never was In Better Health and if I do get Sick Dr Crawford I guess could cure me. Dr [Wind?] was attending that man that Died. I believe if Crawford Had of been tending him he would have been living yet.

I was down to Alexandria Day before yesterday and I seen the House Col Ellsworth was Shot In. It Is now entirely deserted the floor is all cut to pieces the Bar Splintered up and where ever a drop of his Blood fell It has been cut out. The Bullet Hole is In the wall yet. That the Bullet that killed him went In at the same flag Staff is on the house that the Siceshin flag was waving on when that Brave man met his doom but the Stars and Stripes are now floating on It. There was a Small Battle fought a few feet or Rods I should

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say above our camp but that was when the Rebels were camped here. There is Soldiers graves right across the road from here.

The other evening I heard a great firing of Cannons above our Camp a few rods and I run up to see what was up and just as I got there President Lincoln and his Wife and child went By In a two horse Carriage. Lincoln laughed when he seen us all standing looking at him. He looks a good deal like his picture only he is better looking. Mrs Lincoln is quite a pretty woman. I got put In the guard house yesterday for walking over Steve Burrows beat when he was on guard. I had Been up to Gen Franklin with the morning Report for the Regt and was coming back and being In a hurry I thought I would cross his Beat In Stead of going to the gate and he reported me to the Officer of the day which was Capt Tracy and he ordered me put In the guard House for 24 Hours. But he had no right to put me in at all for Steve had ought to have halted me and then If I had went In I was liable to be put In but he did not see me at all until I was two rods away and then he had no right to say anything to me. I told Tracy this but he was mad at me any how Because I did not want him for Capt and he thought that would be a good chance to get revenge but I fared first rate. Had a good cool place In a tent just like one of ours and plenty to eat. For all Capt Tracy did not allow me to have any thing. I tell you though the Col made him let me out when he found out how matters stood. I got out a little after dark and was put In a little before dinner so I had not long to serve.

There is men In our Compiny that if they just [dared?] would Kill Tracy In a minute. I never saw a man so universally hated as he is In my life. There was a Balloon went up the other day. It started about a mile and a half from our Camp and we watched until It got out of sight. I tell you now It was up In the air pretty high. It heats all about the high water up there. It did not rain hardly any here but it was awful cold I tell you but It is quite warm now. I have plenty of Clothes to keep me warm. I got an under Shirt this morning from U.S. It is a very thick warm one I tell you. We also got socks. I have not got mine yet but will In an hour or two. I have a good heavy blanket of my own and Uncle Orlando lets me have two of his to sleep on So I feel first rate. We will not keep these guns that we have got now.

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McKnight says he is going to get Rifles and he sent for Riflemens uniforms. Blue frock Coats and Blue pants. They will be nice Saber Bayonets and when a fellow gets In close quarters he can use them in his hand.

I hardly believe your cousin DPS in regard to the union being lost. I think It will all come right again before long for the Rebels are beginning to get Disheartened and think It does not pay to work hard for nothing and I believe by the time right cold weather sets In they will freeze up. We got news the other evening that our men had had a fight at Fairfax and killed a thousand Rebels and the way they hollered and ripped around was Shocking to Seceshers. I do not have to stand guard now any more which I like pretty well. We are going to try to and put Tracy out again and keep him out. We have Dress parade every evening at 4 O Clock and Sunday at 5. I will send this by Dr. Heighhold [Heichhold] to Brookville and the stage driver will probably take It from there. But my sheet is most full and I must quit. Give my love to all the folks in town except J Sprague. Give my best respects to Mr Campbell. I promise to write to him but I can not get time yet though I will write as soon as I can. Give my love to Maggie & Clarinda, Willie and brother Johnny & Tommy and all the rest of the family and with love to my Dear Mother I remain your Son.

Tilton